

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 04329.2704

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Kazuyuki SATO

Application No.: 10/004,888

Filed: December 7, 2001

For: **HARDWARE MANAGEMENT  
APPARATUS**

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)  
) Group Art Unit: 2151

)  
) Examiner: Unknown

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FEB 23 2004  
TC 2100  
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FEB 20 2004

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application. Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, Applicants submit herewith, English and Japanese language versions of a "Notification of Reasons for Rejection" from the Japanese Patent Office dated December 8, 2003,

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issued in a corresponding application, citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), for which no fee is believed due. However, if there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 19, 2004

By: 

Richard V. Burgulian  
Reg. No. 31,744

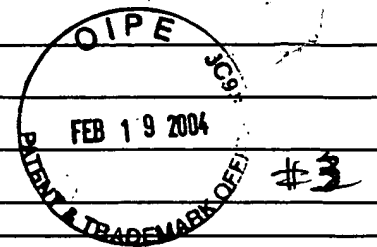
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# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

OMB No. 0651-0011

Atty. Docket No.	04329.2704	Appln. No.	10/004,888
Applicant	Kazuyuki SATO		
Filing Date	December 7, 2001	Group:	2151



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No	
3-26450	2/05/91	Japan			No	
2000-66705 A	3/03/00	Japan			No	
2000-56810 A	2/25/00	Japan			No	
10-180594	7/07/98	Japan			No	
6-268042	9/22/94	Japan			No	
2000-311084 A	11/07/00	Japan			No	
2002-536726 A	10/29/02	Japan			No	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

Examiner	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce